## Welcome to Central

During your online visit today, we hope you feel the presence of the Spirit and the love of Christ as we worship God together. Please fill out the online Friendship Pads, especially if you are a visitor or have prayer concerns or life updates.

## The Nursery is Open

Central has a nursery for children ages 3 months to four-years-old during our Sunday School and worship hours (9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday). Children are always welcome in our sanctuary, but for those parents or caregivers who prefer their little ones to be in a bright, safe, playful environment, please join us in the nursery! The nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the Oglesby building, behind the sanctuary.

## Kasia Smolarek Concert at Central

Join us Friday, December 4, at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:15) for an evening of classical guitar with award-winning Kasia Smolarek! Volunteer ushers needed! Enjoy the concert free by volunteering. Contact Melissa Johnson at mjohnson@cpcatlanta.org. For tickets: Use code CONGREGATION for 20% off. Scan the QR code to purchase!

## Deacons are Hosting a Christmas Party

Join the Deacons for a Merry & Wise Christmas celebration on **December 5 at 1:00 p.m.** at the home of Peg and Charlie Richards. All members age 65 and older are invited to enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer, fellowship, and fun. Please RSVP to Peg Richards by email or phone. If you plan to attend, please also send Peg a few photos of yourself so she can create a special slideshow for everyone to enjoy! We look forward to celebrating the season together!

## Central Children, Youth & Families Potluck

Join us for a festive evening of relaxed fellowship at the Palmers' home on **December 5, from 6:00–8:30 p.m.**! Central will provide gluten-free chicken wings, and we invite you to bring your favorite holiday appetizer, salad, side, dessert, or beverage to share. Please note if your appetizer, side, or salad is vegetarian. **Please go to Realm to RSVP** and sign up for what you'll bring—we can't wait to celebrate with you!

## Beer & Hymns

Join us at Manuel's Tavern on **December 5 at 7:00 p.m.** for a fun-filled time of fellowship, great food, music, and good cheer! Come enjoy the lively atmosphere, share a few laughs, and connect with friends over a wonderful evening together. We hope to see you there!

## Advent Marketplace, Chili Cook-Off and Wreath Making

Join us for a festive afternoon of food, fellowship, creativity, and holiday fun on **December 6** following worship! Browse the Advent Market featuring our mission partners and local arts and crafts, sample delicious entries in the Great Central Chili Cook-Off, and vote for the winner of the coveted Golden Ladle! For $15, create a beautiful Advent wreath to take home while supporting Central's Worship, Music & Arts and Children & Youth Ministries and their partnership around the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Come shop, eat, create, and celebrate the season of Advent with your Central family! **Go to Realm to signup and make your donation!**

## Advent & Christmas Flower Donations

Each week during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Central enjoys beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary as a visual reminder of the beauty and spirit of the seasons. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, a gift to the Flower Fund is a great way to do it. A portion of your gift will also be used throughout the coming year, continuing to bring joy and beauty to our worship services. You may choose to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone, and your name will be listed in the December 20 bulletin. **The deadline for these gifts and memorials will be December 16 by noon.**

## Special Participants in Today's Worship

**Lector:** Lum Family
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Bobbie Paul
**Deacon of the Day:** Rob Forbes
**Candle Lighters:**
Vanessa & Phoebe Hunter
Dane & Leland Jefferson

**Hospitality Team:**
A faithful group of Central members

## Centralites Under Care of the Session As They Prepare for Ordained Ministry

Christian Antwi
Samuel Ayantor
Erin Gerber
Ximena Leroux

## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Susan B. Landrum, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
John White, Facilities Manager
Abraha Derie, Custodian
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist
Karen Brown, Pianist, Jerusalem Choir
Rand Lines, Pianist, Nazareth Choir
Aaron Cummings, Music Intern
Josh Smith, Lead Audio Technician
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Technician
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager
Toby Abrelat, Video Technician
Christian Davis, Production Technician
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

## Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, at www.cpcatlanta.org or by using the QR code.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH · ATLANTA, GA ·

201 Washington Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.cpcatlanta.org

# Central
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ATLANTA



*At the Water's Edge*, Lauren Wright Pittman

# 1st Sunday of Advent
## November 29, 2026
## Worship begins at 11 a.m.

## Gathering Around the Word

Prelude — *Meditation on Conditor alme siderum (Creator of the Stars of Night)* — Rebecca Groom Te Velde
Don Papenbrock, organ

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Ringing of the Bell

*As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world that Central Presbyterian Church is worshiping God.*

Centering Prayer — *Improvisation on "Christ, My Hope, and Christ, My Joy"*
Don Papenbrock, organ
*As we hear the music, we are invited to center ourselves for worship.*

Christ my hope, and Christ my joy,
Christ my strength and my light.
Christ, my confidence alone, in You
I trust and have no fear;
in You I trust and have no fear.

✥ Call to Worship — Rev. Kate Culver
In the wilderness, God is already at work.
**In the waiting, God is already near.**
The Spirit meets us in uncertain places and reminds us who we are:
**Beloved children of God.**
So we come with our hope, our questions,
and our longing for what is still to come.
**Come, let us worship the God who meets us on the way.**

✥ Hymn 82 — *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* — HYFRYDOL

✥ Call to Confession

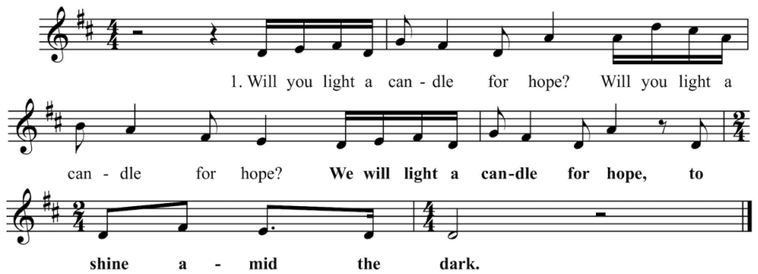
✥ Prayer of Confession
**God of hope, you call us beloved and meet us even in the wilderness. Still, we confess that waiting is hard for us. We rush toward easy answers, let fear shape our choices, and forget that you are present even when the way ahead is unclear. Forgive us when we lose hope, when we fail to trust your grace, and when we forget that we do not walk alone. Slow us down. Open our hearts. Help us trust that your Spirit is still moving, even here, even now….** (Silent Confession) **In Christ we pray. Amen.**

✥ Assurance of Pardon
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✥ Passing of the Peace

Advent Candle Lighting — Vanessa & Phoebe Hunter
Inspired by the Season and Central Session's Raising Our Voices Statement — Dane & Leland Jefferson
Advent begins with a promise of hope: the dry desert will bloom, and God will make a way home for all who are scattered.
In the wilderness, a voice cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"
Like that voice, we are called to speak up for justice, and to say out loud what God has promised.
When we feel tired or scared, we hear: "Have courage. Do not be afraid. Here is your God."
**All: We lift our voices in hope. God is making a way.**
In Advent, God draws near. We tell the story of Jesus, and we hope, because the world is about to turn.
**All: Come, Immanuel. Light of the world, shine through us.**

Hymn — *Will You Light a Candle?* — Katie Houts
Sing twice through, congregation joins on bold text.




*During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.*

## Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children — Rev. Susan B. Landrum

Prayer for Illumination — The Lum Family

First Lesson — Isaiah 35:1–10

Second Lesson — Mark 1:1-8, 16:5-8 — Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon — **Holiday Tour of Homes**
*Christmas at Mark's House*

## Responding to the Word

✥ Hymn 96 — *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* — WINCHESTER NEW

✥ Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Susan B. Landrum
Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19
**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory — *My Son, the Beloved* — David Blackwell
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, piano

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And as he came out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

- Mark 1: 9-11

✥ At the Presentation — *Advent Doxology* — OLD HUNDREDTH

**All praise, eternal Christ to Thee,**
**whose advent sets Thy people free;**
**Once more upon Thy people shine,**
**and fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

✥ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
TRADITIONAL
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**
**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,**
**as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✥ Hymn 87 — *Comfort, Comfort You My People* — GENEVAN 42

✥ Charge and Benediction — Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Please sing along if you would like

**May God bless you and keep you.**
**May God make God's face to shine upon you.**
**May God be gracious and give you peace forever and ever.**

Postlude — *Veni Emmanuel* — Roger Teichmann
Don Papenbrock, organ

## This Week at Central

### November 29 - December 6, 2026

**Sunday, November 29**
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge
9:30 a.m. Nazareth Choir
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
10:00 a.m. Children & Youth Pageant Run-Through & Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Jerusalem Bell Choir

**Monday, November 30**
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
6:00 p.m. Nominating Committee (Rev. Shannon Kershner's home)

**Tuesday, December 1**
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
6:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (Zoom)

**Wednesday, December 2**
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic (Night Shelter-Gym)
6:10 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Georgia Tech Choir Concert (Sanctuary)

**Thursday, December 3**
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Central in the City (Zoom)

**Friday, December 4**
10:00 a.m. Facilities Work Day
7:30 p.m. Kasia Smolarek Concert

**Saturday, December 5**
Church Office Closed
1:00 p.m. Deacon's Merry & Wise Party
6:00 p.m. Central Children, Youth & Families Potluck
7:00 p.m. Beer & Hymns (Manuel's Tavern)

**Sunday, December 6**
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge
9:30 a.m. Nazareth Choir
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
10:00 a.m. Children & Youth Pageant Run-Through & Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Advent Marketplace, Chili Cook-Off and Wreath Making (Tull Hall)
12:30 p.m. Jerusalem Bell Choir
6:00 p.m. Session Christmas Party

✥ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.
**Please silence your cellphones.**

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